Revamping of U.N.O.

289. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.N. Secretary General has submitted a revamp report to the world body to streamline the 190 nation body;

(b) if so, the details thereafter;

(c) whether this report also contains some proposal for restructuring of the Security Council; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes. The highlights of the reform measures are:

(i) a through review of the programme of work;

(ii) detailed proposals for improving performance in the areas of human rights and public information;

(iii) reduction in the number of meetings and reports required to be produced by the Secretariat;

(iv) changes in the budget and planning system;

(v) steps to improve coordination among UN entities at the country level;

(vi) review by an independent panel of relations between the UN and civil society; and

(vii) proposals for improving quality and performance of staff.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

Cheating by Travel Agents

†290. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

illegal business being operated by travel agents to sent gullible people to foreign countries for employment after charging lakhs of rupees from them;

(b) if so, the number of Indian's languishing in Jails in foreign countries alongwith the names in those countries;

(c) the number of Indians brought back to India during the last three years, year-wise, alongwith the names of those countries; and

(d) the steps Government are taking to curb such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Sporadic complaints against unregistered agents individuals are received in this regard.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) As and when complaints are received against the unscrupulous agents/individuals, show-cause notices are issued/complaints are lodged with the local police authorities for taking action. The Government has been issuing sanctions to prosecute various unscrupulous persons involved in the business of manpower export. The State Governments/Union Territories have been requested to issue guidelines right down to the police station level to maintain a strict vigil against nefarious activities of unscrupulous agents. In case of complaints against registered recruiting agents, show-cause notices are issued to the agents and if the reply is not found convincing, the license of the recruiting agents is Suspended/ Cancelled.

Default in depositing statutory dues

291. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the article titled "Public Limited means unlimited waste of public money" appearing in the Indian Express dated the 9th July, 2002;

(b) if so, whether some PSUs have not deposited statutory dues to the extent of Rs. 1578 crore in addition to Rs. 357 crore of wages to workers as alleged in the article;